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(PIGS BAY)

WASHINGTON--THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND CONGRESS ARE CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF MAKING PUBLIC SECRET 1961 TESTIMONY BY SECRETARY OF STATE RUSK AND OTHER OFFICIALS ON THE DISASTROUS "BAY OF PIGS" INVASION OF CUBA.

PRESS OFFICER LINCOLN WHITE SAID TODAY THE STATE DEPARTMENT WAS CONSULTING ON THE MATTER WITH THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS HEADED BY SEN. WAYNE MORSE, D-ORE. THE INVASION ATTEMPT OCCURRED APRIL 19, 1961, AND RUSK GAVE HIS TESTIMONY THE FOLLOWING MONTH.

WHITE SAID THE QUESTION WAS WHETHER RELEASE OF SOME OF THE TESTIMONY WOULD BE IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST.

OTHER OFFICIALS SAID THE QUESTION WAS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE WHEN RUSK TESTIFIED LAST FRIDAY ON CUBAN DEVELOPMENTS.

IT WAS SUGGESTED THEN, IT WAS SAID, THAT RECENT PUBLIC DEBATE OVER THE EXTENT OF THE AIR COVER PROVIDED BY THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE AFFAIR MIGHT MAKE IT ADVISABLE TO RELEASE SOME OF THE TESTIMONY IF THIS COULD BE DONE WITHOUT HARM.

RUSK WAS UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE SAID THE STATE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE GLAD TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER AND GIVE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.

1/31--E140FES